

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/768,242

Examiner

Anthony T Ton

Applicant(s)

COOPER, MELISSA D.

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/2/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a) **In Regarding to Claims 1-6 and 12-15:** The prior arts of record fail to teach a method for testing a network switch chip having an expansion port configured for transferring data according to a prescribed protocol, the method comprising a combination of steps of:

generating by the external logic unit a new expansion port frame based on reception of the expansion port frame; and

wherein the receiving of the expansion port frame includes:

asserting by the external logic unit an expansion port receiver request signal, on a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus, to enable the expansion port of the network switch chip to output the expansion port frame onto a single expansion port transmit data path of the expansion bus, the external logic unit asserting the expansion port receiver request signal until detecting a buffer of the external logic unit has been filled; and

storing into the buffer, during assertion of the expansion port receiver request signal, frame data of the expansion port frame received in prescribed bursts via the single expansion port transmit data path based on a first clock signal received from the expansion port via a corresponding first clock path of the expansion bus.

b) **In Regarding to Claims 7-11 and 16-19:** The prior arts of record fail to teach a test system for testing a network switch chip having an expansion port configured for transferring data according to a prescribed protocol, the test system comprising a combination of steps of:

an external logic unit configured for generating a new expansion port frame based on reception of the expansion port frame; and

a buffer, wherein:

the external logic unit is configured for asserting an expansion port receiver request signal, on a corresponding signal path of the expansion bus, to enable the expansion port of the network switch chip to output the expansion port frame onto a single expansion port transmit data path of the expansion bus, the external logic unit asserting the expansion port receiver request signal until detecting the buffer has been filled; and

the expansion port frame being received, during assertion of the expansion port receiver request signal, as frame data in prescribed bursts via the single expansion port transmit data path based on a first clock signal received from the expansion port via a corresponding first clock path of the expansion bus.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Anthony T Ton** whose telephone number is **571-272-3076**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Chau Nguyen** can be reached on **571-272-3126**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully submitted,

by: 
Anthony T. Ton
Patent Examiner
February 15, 2005


PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER